

Deb Spain is Conservation District's "Right-hand-man."



Discussing the engineering details with local contractors is one of Deb's many responsibilities.

GETTYSBURG — The Adams County Conservation District is getting a helping hand from one of the most attractive technicians in the county's history.

Deborah Spain, a 28-year-old graduate of Gettysburg College, has been helping to survey ponds, waterways, and subsurface drainage, and has been the "right-hand-man" to the local Soil Conservation Service office's technician William McCleaf.

What makes Deb so unusual is that she was not from a farm and received her degree in English Literature rather than agriculture. Through CETA, the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, Deb has learned the art of peering through a Dumpey level on swelteringly hot Summer days, along with

trudging through mud and dust that's ankle deep while running the surveying rod during an engineering survey.

"It's surprising how much you can learn when your working on the farm," she said. Assisting McCleaf has given Deb a chance to learn about farm management practices such as manure storage facilities and stripcropping.

According to Deb, there is not any part of the job she finds too difficult. What's difficult, she said, is the frustration of knowing that when she's finished her year and a half of training there remains a question of whether she'll be employed.



Deb Spain works as a conservation technician for the Adams County Conservation District.



Peering through the lense of her Dumpey level, Deb assists Soil Conservation Service Technician Bill McCleaf perform a final construction inspection on a waterway.

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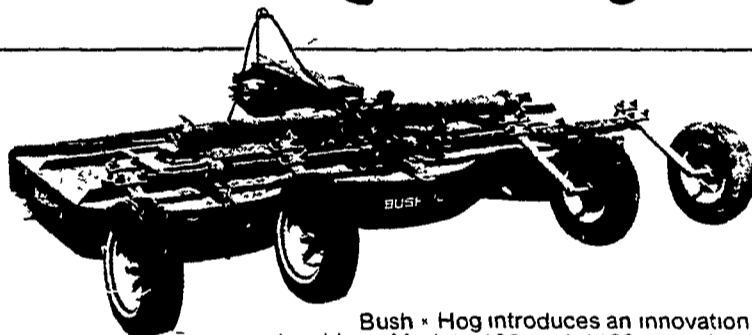


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